

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Budget Savings - Economic Development Sectoral support and events

Assessment ID	IIA-002598
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

IIA for the impact on a reduction of a potential £25,000 reduction in the budget for industry sector support and events in Aberdeenshire as part of Economic Developments budget.

During screening 4 of 11 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Town Centres First

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 3 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by paul.macari2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	No
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy relate to budget proposals?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation			Yes	
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Area deprivation	<p>Funding for sectoral support and events may impact specific areas if funding is reduced or not given for local projects or events, that have previously been funded by this budget</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Work with sectors and events to find alternative funding or ways to deliver what they are doing differently</p> <p>Timescale ongoing</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Economic Development Action Plan	This gives an overview of the data and targets for Economic Development	This is now reported bi-annually to ISC. It allows us to track and evaluate what is working and what we may need to do more work on or focus our resources on.

4.5. Engagement with affected groups

This budget is often used on an ad hoc basis with different recipient's so it is difficult to engage with 'potential' recipients when we don't necessary know who they will be on a year to year basis.

4.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

All potential events or sectoral support would be given once due diligence has been undertaken and any negative impacts mitigated.

4.7. Evidence of engagement

This budget and its reduction by £25,000 would be a reduction in sectoral or event support. Many of the events that this budget supports are one offs or just part of a wider package of support measures.

4.8. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

A reduction in the support Economic Development can provide directly to sectors and events can be mitigated but there may be events or requests that will have to be turned down due to lack of budget. This may mean that some events do not have the required funding to go ahead. We would of course continue to sign post and support organisations and events to find alternative sources of funding or redesign their requirements to fit less funding.

Sustainable Economic Development is a Council priority. Reducing this budget will allow Economic Development to focus on its priorities and continue to deliver the Economic Development Service Strategy approved by ISC in October 2024.

4.9. Improving Relations

Economic Development will continue to work with partners and businesses across Aberdeenshire and work together to ensure there is no duplication and promote economies of scale and partnership working.

4.10. Opportunities of Equality

Economic Development will continue to work across all sectors and with businesses and partners to implement the Economic Development Service Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy.

5. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

5.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets		Yes		
Footfall		Yes		
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre		Yes		
Tourism			Yes	
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business			Yes	
Cultural heritage and identity		Yes		
Social and cultural aspects		Yes		

5.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Town centre business	<p>If there is a reduction in budget for Economic Development sectoral and events support this may have an impact on reducing the support available for town centres and their businesses.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Continue to work with town businesses through the development of our Place Plans, Aberdeenshire Loves Local campaigns, Business Gateway support and implementing the Economic Development Service Strategy</p> <p>Timescale ongoing</p>
Tourism	<p>If Economic Development has a reduced budget for sectoral support and events then this may mean that some events may not go ahead or go ahead in a reduced way which may have an impact on the number of visitors.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Continue to promote Aberdeenshire as a place to invest, live, work and visit as part of the Regional Economic Strategy, Economic Development Service Strategy and Invest Aberdeen</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

5.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Town Centre Health Checks	These health checks give us a regular (annual or every two years)overviews for the main towns in Aberdeenshire. This includes facilities available and some views of local people	This allows us to evaluate and understand where we should focus our resources.

5.4. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Whilst Economic Development will continue to do all we can to support businesses and promote Aberdeenshire as a place to Invest, live, work and visit. If our resources are reduced then we will not be able to deliver everything that may have been done in the past. We will continue to work with partners to avoid duplication, share resources and sign post to alternatives where possible.

Sustainable Economic Development is a Council Priority and the Economic Development Service with its new Service Strategy will continue to change and adapt to the changing economic climate and support the Aberdeenshire Economy whilst being cognisant to the Aberdeenshire Council financial position.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Continue to implement the Economic Development Service Strategy which aligns with the Council Plan and was approved by ISC in October 2024.	<p>Lead Officer Kelly Wiltshire</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Thursday January 09, 2025</p> <p>Planned Finish Tuesday March 31, 2026</p> <p>Expected Outcome Continuing to implement the Economic Development Service Strategy</p> <p>Resource Implications Economic Development staff and budget and working with partners</p>